

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy in Council has passed an important resolution on the subject of the utilization of water-power for industrial works. Sites where existing power may be so utilized to advantage seem to exist in Bombay. His Excellency in Council has accordingly asked the Government of Bombay to collect and furnish to the Government of India all available information connected with sites in the Bombay Presidency where water-power exists sufficient for putting in motion the machinery of an extensive factory.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Times of India* says, "it is said that Major Baring and Sir Louis Mallet are both firmly convinced, not only of the expediency of abolishing the duties on grey goods, but of sweeping away the duties altogether: and Lord Hartington will be guided by the advice of those officials doubtless. It is understood here that the difficulties in the way of making such changes in the mode of raising the opium revenue as will obviate the anti-opiumists' complaints of the direct Government management of the trade have been found very great, if not altogether insuperable; and no plan has yet been decided upon in the way of reform." We can hardly believe that Major Baring will favour direct taxation.

WE OBSERVE that the little expeditionary force against the Abors have succeeded in establishing themselves at Bomjur and Nijamghat, and that, too, just in time to prevent the Abors migrating across the Dibong River in order to form a new settlement on the lower range of hills to the east of it and the Dikrang River.

THE FEATURES of the march and the nature of the country traversed by the Abor expeditionary force are very graphically described by a correspondent of the *Englishman*, and these furnish some points of great interest. The force made the march unaccompanied by camp equipage, and as there was plenty of rain one naturally wonders how the men fared. It appears that "lean-to huts" and waterproof sheets made them impervious to the rain when in bivouac, and the latter also served as waterproof coats when on the march. Each man's sheet is six feet by three, with eyelet holes, and the correspondent says of it, "the waterproof sheet being strapped to the greatcoat of the sepoy, is easily detached to form a waterproof coat on the march, and is about as simple and great a blessing to the soldier as was ever invented." The lean-to hut is a simple structure, about twelve feet in length, formed of stakes, poles and branches of trees thatched with grass and standing at an angle of about forty-five degrees. Underneath it are suspended the waterproof sheets, and the whole is said to form an admirable shelter. The correspondent adds:

On an average it took the force just one hour after arrival at an encamping place to put themselves under this kind of shelter, including accommodation for advance and rear guards, camp followers and those not able to assist in the work, and all being under shelter far more expeditiously than if they had to wait for baggage train and to pitch tents: an immense saving of time and expense, for no special carriage had to be supplied for camp equipage, no tents soaked with wet had to be struck and packed before the march each morning."

This is a remarkable improvement on the old plan. We should like to know the name of the author of it.

THE TIMES OF INDIA says that Mr. Mahomed Ali Rogay has given notice that at a meeting of the Bombay Corporation to be held on the 21st inst, he will "with the view of remedying the quorum nuisance now unfortunately felt in the transaction of business at present" move that the following words be added to clause (F) of section 8 after the word 'or':—"who fails to attend four consecutive meetings of the Corporation at the hour appointed for the holding of the meeting." We do not quite catch the meaning of the Resolution as we have not before us the clause of Section 8 referred to. Does it mean that every Commissioner, who may be unpunctual in his attendance at four successive meetings shall lose his seat? We are sorry that things have come to such a pass in Bombay.

TUESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER.

A CORRESPONDENT brings to our notice the following case of Police oppression:

A man by name Durga Churn Mukerjee purchased salt from the ship "Marine" and paid duty to Government, in May 1881. He received a wholesale Rowannah from the Board of Revenue which was delivered to the salt chowki Daroga at Bally Khal within 15 days. Durga Churn was not ordered to render any account to any one, as Kamahati where he opened a shop is an abolished place and as the Tariff does not mention the name of the place, Akhoy Coomar Goocho, the Police Sub-Inspector allowed to overlook the salt heap for the last seven months, but suddenly he confiscated the unsold salt 16 maunds 37 seers. Durga Churn showed him the *Khatta* containing the number of the Rowannah and the sales, which he spurned. Seeing that the Sub-Inspector was bent upon putting Durga Churn in trouble, the latter represented the oppressive action to the District Superintendent of Police, who was kind enough to call for an explanation from the Sub-Inspector. The Sub went to the Joint-Magistrate, E. W. Collier Esq., and innocently informed him that he might be permitted to arrest certain persons who were selling salt without any document. The Joint-Magistrate as a matter of course ordered him to arrest such persons.

Durga Churn, in the meantime applied to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue and obtained an authenticated copy of the Rowannah and produced it before the Joint-Magistrate. The case is still subjudice.

Lokenath Chatterjee, a Government servant who has no connection with the salt was arrested with Durga Churn and the weighman of the shop. The latter was actually hand-cuffed, but the former two were threatened that he is in a position to hand-cuff them also. They were taken to the thanna and were released on bail. The Joint-Magistrate has very properly ordered Baba Lokenath Chatterjee to prosecute the Sub-Inspector for his lawless proceedings.

We hope the attention of the authorities will be drawn to this case.

THE TOTAL NUMBER of deaths for October in the N. W. P. and Oudh was 1,431,613 against 119,043 for the same month last year. The deaths we believe were chiefly from fever.

IT IS STATED that a grove of mammoth trees, ninety-three in number, and many over one hundred feet in circumference, has been discovered in California. These monsters are some eighty miles north of the big trees usually visited by travellers in the Yosemite route.

THE POPULATION of Egypt, including the southern regions, is given by Dr. Behm at 17,400,000. Of these the Christians number 600,000, and the Mohammedans 16,800,000.

WE READ that in the last sixty years no fewer than 16,000,000 people have left the Old World for America and Australia; and of these the United States received 10,370,000.

THERE ARE said to be 390 educated female physicians practising in the United States, the majority being in Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania.

A NON-RESIDENT AMERICAN thus sums up the characteristics of American cities. New York is the most cosmopolitan, Philadelphia the most provincial, Boston the most cultivated, Washington the most American. Society in New York is based upon wealth, in Philadelphia on family, in Boston upon intellect, in Washington upon official position. There is most extravagance in New York, most comfort in Philadelphia, most philanthropy in Boston, most etiquette in Washington. New York is the great commercial centre of America; Washington has no commerce; Philadelphia is a city of manufactures, Boston is the business centre for the manufactures of New England. New York is democratic, Philadelphia republican, Boston doubtful, and Washington disfranchised by the national constitution. The Germans avoid Boston, the Irish Philadelphia, Irish congregate in New York. The Negroes prefer Washington. Boston is the place to study Unitarianism; New York, Catholicism, Philadelphia, Quakerism.

WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER.

THE PIONEER has a most illogical article on High education in India. He begins by referring to the North Western Provinces and ends by abusing the Bengali. A correspondent points out to him that the cost of high education is diminishing. He cannot deny this fact, but says:

The Government confesses that high education costs too much; and we go further and say that not only does the

highly educated native cost the Government more than it can afford, but that for the same money a better article could be turned out.

Again:

Again, is the result of higher education—not the number of baboons who manage to satisfy the examiners; but the Babus themselves—are these F. A.'s and B. A.'s and M. A.'s of the Indian Universities a credit to our system? As a rule, the native graduate is a specimen of a badly educated man; his intelligence developed in an uneven way, some of his faculties left uncultivated, other faculties abnormally cultivated. It is not altogether the fault of the Professors, who are bound to satisfy the requirements of an examining board over whose vagaries they have no control. The blame partly rests with the Government, which allows all the abuses of the system to remain and flourish, and, in these provinces certainly, the fault is, to a great extent, the fault of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University.

The fault then lies with the system, which by all means improve, but why mercilessly denounce the cause of high education?

BENGALI ENERGY.—We take the following from the *Home and Colonial Mail*:

In re Shamachurn Khas Navis.—This was a petition, on the 19th Nov., before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, praying for a special leave to appeal *in forma pauperis* from a judgment of the High Court of Judicature of Bengal, by which the petitioner was six years since struck off the rolls as a pleader in the Indian Courts. Mr. C. W. Arathoon, who appeared in his behalf, stated that the petitioner was what known and well understood in India as a "secondgrade pleader," and he was accustomed for many years to practise in the local tribunal at Patna, within the Bengal Presidency. In September, 1874 an official attached to that court informed the Moonsiff that the petitioner had, as he alleged, offered him a bribe to affix the seal of the Court to a deed. The Moonsiff, to whom the petitioner utterly denied the charge, told him that if he confessed it he would be forgiven. The petitioner consulted with his brother pleaders who persuaded him, notwithstanding his innocence, to take the Moonsiff's advice, which he accordingly and reluctantly did, and the matter ended there for a time; but it ultimately reached the ears of a District Judge, who of his motion, reported it to the High Court. A criminal prosecution was ordered to be instituted against the petitioner, and although the Judge said there was no evidence against him, and that he appeared to have acted through fear of the Moonsiff and the persuasion of his brother pleaders, the High Court ordered him to be disbarred and struck off the rolls as a pleader. Applications which had been made to reinstate him were refused, and for six years the petitioner had been deprived of his only means of subsistence and been cast into great distress and poverty. He now, assuring their Lordships of the utter illegality and injustice of the whole proceedings asked, that he might be allowed to appeal to them *in forma pauperis* from the decision of the High Court by which he had been disbarred. Their Lordships, in the end, ordered the petition to stand over and directed that, in the circumstances, the petitioner should have power to apply to the High Court to readmit him to practise and reinstate him as a pleader.

The man deserves a generous consideration for the sake of his energy and perseverance.

THE FOLLOWING is a statement of Parliamentary grants to the Royal Family: The Prince of Wales receives an annuity of £40,000 in addition to the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall. The Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Connaught each receive £25,000 per annum. The ladies of the Royal Family are pensioned as follows:—The Princess of Wales receives from the State £10,000 per annum, and the following annuities have been granted to the Queen's daughters on marriage by the House of Commons:—The Princess Royal, £8,000; the late Princess Alice, Princess Helena, and Princess Louise, £6,000 each per annum. The other annuities payable to the Royal Family are—Princess Mary (Duchess of Teck), £5,000; Princess Augustus of Mecklenburg Strelitz, £3,000 (granted in 1843); and the Dutches of Cambridge £3000 (also granted in 1843) and the Duke of Cambridge £12,000, in addition to military pay and other allowances. Princess Beatrice being still unmarried has no direct allowance. Her Majesty the Queen, receives £60,000 per annum for her privy purse, and the expenses of the Royal Household, also paid out of the consolidated fund, amount to about £340,000.

HOW TIGHT LACING affects health is shewn in the following case. At an inquest recently held on the body of Martha Mealing, aged about 70, who had been formerly a lady's maid in a good family, the following evidence was given by Dr. Blake:

The deceased must in her younger days have laced her stays or bodices so tightly that the centre of the stomach was compressed. The valve-like communication between the upper or lower portions of the stomach was not larger than a man's finger, which must have had a bad effect upon her health. The Coroner remarked that he knew of several

deaths which were brought about by tight lacing, but the percentage of deaths was nothing compared with the immense number of women who preferred to sacrifice their natural figure and their health to fashion, instead of following the simple rules of nature, became disfigured for life, and never for any length of time enjoyed even moderately good health. A great many of the victims of fashion died prematurely, but the surrounding circumstances of family, position, &c. enabled the death to be passed over without coming before the public, and they remained in ignorance of the numberless cases of women who, ignoring Nature's simple laws, became victims to Fashion's follies and absurdities.

And yet King Fashion dominates undisturbed!

THE CALCUTTA EDEN GARDENS are being illuminated with electric light. This improvement is due to the liberality of Sir Ashley Eden.

THE RIGHT HON'BLE W. E. BAXTER, M.P. for Montrose, has arrived in Lahore. He is accompanied by his six daughters, and travelled to Lahore from Bombay via the Rajputana Railway. He will remain a few days in the Punjab and will come down to Calcutta, where he will be the guest of the Viceroy. Mr. Baxter is a zealous advocate of the disestablishment of the Church. We hope he will impart a stimulus to a movement on the subject in India.

THURSDAY, 22ND DECEMBER.

A CORRESPONDENT at Buddengunge in the Jehanabad sub-division of the Hooghly district reports a case of daring theft from the tent of the sub-divisional officer of Jehanabad, who was on his winter tour, and was encamped at Kumargunge within the Police jurisdiction of Goghat. Our thieves are becoming audacious.

A CORRESPONDENT, an officer of some experience in the Upper Subordinate establishment of the Public Works Department, says that whatever the argument against the necessity and expediency of obtaining recruits from the Cooper's Hill College, it cannot be denied that the young English recruits are superior to the passed Assistant Engineers of the Presidency College, Engineering Branch, in theoretical knowledge, just as the Assistant Engineers are superior to the members of the Upper Subordinate establishment of the Public Works Department.

REFERRING to the arrangement under which the passed L. C. Es. of the Presidency College were first employed as temporary apprentice Engineers but are now permanently employed as supervisors the same correspondent asks: "What is to be the fate of those, who are employed as overseers? Their promotion is blocked up by the appointment of these apprentice Engineers to the post of supervisors. The present rule is that the number of sub-engineers under each local Government shall not exceed 3-10ths of the whole Upper Subordinates and that of supervisors 5-10ths. The overseers who have deserved promotion must wait until the number of apprentice Engineers have been provided for and the supervisors in employ reduced to less than 5-10ths."

WE HAVE received another communication from the inhabitants of Majarpara and Sircarpara sections of the town of Bhudressur complaining of the grievous hardship to which they have been subjected by closing their path to the river-side. They have no other water but that of the river for bathing, cleaning and other domestic purposes. The culverts pointed out as the alternative passage is a water-way, and does not admit of two persons passing abreast without elbowing each other, one passenger on his way to the culvert must wait for the other who may be coming from the opposite direction. Besides, men and women must jostle each other on their way from and to the river through the culvert. What right have Railway authorities to close a public highway?

AN ANALYSIS of the catalogue of books received into the Bengal Library during the third quarter of the current year gives the following results:—The publications received consist of books of permanent interest, pamphlets and periodicals; they are written in Assamese, Bengali, English, Hindi, Mussulman-Bengali, Persian, Sanskrit, Santali, Urdu and Urya. A portion of these publications are bi-lingual and tri-lingual. The combined languages are—English and Sanskrit, Urdu and Sanskrit, Bengali and Sanskrit, English and Hindi, Arabic and Mussulman-Bengali, and Bengali, Hindi and Sanskrit. Of these publications 100 are in Bengali, 33 in English, 4 in Urdu, 7 in Hindi and the rest in other languages. The subjects treated of in the Bengali books and pamphlets are—Law, Science, Physics and Mathematics, History, Geography, Poetry, Language, Biography, Fiction and Religion. There are about sixty Bengali periodicals educational and non-educational.

A CORRESPONDENT at Patnakhali in the district of Backergunge referring to a standing order of the High Court that decree-holders in applying for the sale of any immoveable property of a judgment-debtor must file an affidavit that he has searched the records

of the Registration Office concerned and ascertained that the property to be put up to sale had not been transferred or any way encumbered by the judgment-debtor, observes that the order amounts to a virtual denial of justice to the judgment-creditor. For, writes our correspondent, say that the decree-holder is the resident of a place in a remote corner of a Munsiffi, and has a decree for a sum of Rs. 10 only against one of his under-tenants, and the sale of the under-tenure of the debtor is the only means left by which the decree can be satisfied. In order to conform to the order of the Court above referred to he must first attach the tenure and then search the registration books for 12 years, file an affidavit, cause notices to be served upon the debtor of the intended sale and then have the sale proclaimed. Now in order to make the registration search for 11 years he must repair to the District Registrar's office at the headquarters of the district, which is say about 4 days' journey from the residence of judgment-creditor. Leaving out of consideration the question of trouble and hardship the expense of journey alone amounts to Rs. 20, he has to stay at the sudder station for a week, and that entails upon him at least an expenditure of Rs. 4, and then he has to pay Rs. 4½ as searching fee. Having finished this work he must go back to the sub-registrar's office in the interior to search the register for the current 12th year—and then what is the result? The creditor is able to recover the fee only Rs. 4½ with the amount of the decree. Is not this a good device to defeat the ends of justice?

FRIDAY, 23RD DECEMBER.

THE CHARU BARTA of Mymensing states that a silver mine has been discovered by a native gentleman in Lalmati Hills belonging to the Maharaja of Hill Tippera.

THE PIONEER says: "As a rule, indeed, courts of justice are too severe rather than too lenient. They get into the habit of serving out years of penal servitude as grocers do so much sugar, pushing them over the counter with as little hesitation or anxious thought. Not infrequently perhaps years of imprisonment are inflicted when months should have sufficed." Yes, most of our Magistrates and Judges are more for conviction than acquittal, and more for heavy punishment than light punishment. Mr. Whitley Stokes ought to amend the Criminal Procedure Code in the light of these observations.

A PUBLIC-SPIRITED native gentleman of Rishra in the Serampore sub-division lately sent up a catalogue of grievances to the Agent of the East Indian Railway on behalf of 3rd class passengers, and we are informed that no attention has been paid to him. Some of his complaints certainly deserved consideration, for instance the one relating to the accommodation of females and the other regarding the detention of 3rd class passengers in their carriages awaiting the arrival of ticket-examiners. The detention of passengers about their office hour causes them much inconvenience, and the ticket collectors as a rule, make no speed to release them.

OUR GOSSAIN DURGAPUR Correspondent writes:

What a piteous sight we beheld in the kutchery of the Khustea sub-division lately? The sub-divisional officer returned on the 17th December from his tour in the interior and people flocked into his Court on the 19th for court-fee and other stamps. They had many of them to file their plaints on that day, which was perhaps the latest date and so they waited from 10 A. M. up to evening. The officer came to the kutchery at 4 P. M. worked in a listless way, doing this and that in a half-hearted way, and finished nothing.

Some parts of the Kushtea sub-division is infested with leopards. A young son of the Amla Shaw family shot one lately, but that will not remove the nuisance. Cannot the sub-divisional officer seek sport here for some days?

Strange to say the sugar-cane cultivators are likely to suffer considerable loss this year for want of a sufficient supply of crushing mills. If these mills be not available in time the canes will dry up and become hard and useless. The cane crop promises to be very copious this year. A large area is cultivated and the sticks everywhere are full grown and healthy.

SATURDAY, 24TH DECEMBER.

A Dacca Correspondent complains of strained relations between the Judge of Dacca and the local bar. We cannot understand why such should be the case. A Judge ought to know that equanimity of temper is his first qualification.

A CORRESPONDENT takes us to task for coupling the name of Mr. D'Oyly with the Mosleys and the Sharps in the editorial note in our last regarding the reception accorded to Mr. Growse. Has he forgotten the dog case? But we are glad to learn from our correspondent that Mr. D'Oyly has since changed and that he is now kind to natives. The same remarks we believe apply to Mr. Kirkwood, who has turned a new leaf at Mymensing.

BABU PRATAPCHUNDER ROY, publisher of Mahabharatha and Ramayana, requests us to announce the following donations:

	Rs.
Babu Bhairub Chundra Roy Chowdry, Zemindar, Bhal and Dacca	100
Rani Sarbomongola Debi, Kasipore, Calcutta	50
Babus Sasimohun and Gobindo Chunder Pal Chowdry, Zemindar, Lohargung	50
Kumar Rajendra Narain Roy Bahadur, Joydebpore Dacca, for the second time	25

THE ENGLISHMAN hears that in the event of the repeal of the remaining cotton duties being determined upon, a more general application of the License Tax will be the form in which the Indian Finance Minister will recoup himself for the loss of revenue. That is to say, the extension of the Licence Tax to the official and professional classes will probably be a feature of the next budget, together with an enhancement of the rate of taxation. It is intended to revise the classes upon whom the tax is levied, and to enhance the rate chargeable on the wealthier classes of the community. This will be Income tax in disguise.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London December 19.—An extensive seizure has been made at Dublin of dynamite, arms, ammunition, and treasonable documents. Several arrests have been made in connection therewith. The Times publishes a paragraph stating that Major General Ellice, Adjutant General, will be appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar. *Obituary.*—Mr. G. E. Street, architect.

20.—The Ladies' Land League has been proclaimed illegal. 21.—The Daily News publishes a telegram from its Washington correspondent, stating that if the above Bills are passed, they will undoubtedly be vetoed by the President, and that it is probable that the present law for the Coinage of two million dollars monthly will remain unaltered.

22.—Mr. Parnell has been removed from Kilmainham gaol to Armagh. A large meeting of landlords took place in Dublin to-day, at which a resolution was passed condemning the administration of the Land Act and demanding State compensation.

23.—The Exhibition proposed to be held in Dublin has been abandoned in consequence of a dispute respecting the asking of the patronage of the Queen. Thirty rifles, fifty revolvers, and a quantity of ammunition have been seized at Limerick.

New York, December 20.—The American exploring Ship *Jennette* was crushed by ice in June last and had to be abandoned. The ship's company escaped in three boats, one of which was rescued by the natives, and the occupants were forwarded to Irkutsk, and another landed at the mouth of the river Lena, the crew of which were found to be suffering fearfully. The third boat is missing.

Madrid, December 21.—There was a debate in the Cortes, to-day upon the Borneo Charter. The Minister of Foreign Affairs said that Spain had protested against the English occupation of Borneo, but stated that he could give no further information on the subject, as negotiations were now proceeding.

Constantinople, December 20.—The Sultan has issued an Imperial firman sanctioning the settlement of the bondholders' debt.

22.—Mr. O'Donovan, late the Daily News special correspondent at Merve, has been arrested for publicly slandering the Sultan.

Rome, December 22.—There was a debate in the Senate to-day upon affairs in the Tunis. The Minister of Foreign Affairs said that Italy had not recognised the Bardo Treaty, and would continue to watch the action of the French in Tunis. The British Government, he said, had tacitly accepted the Treaty.

WE HEAR that Mr. Ravenshaw, the Burdwan Commissioner has resigned. Mr. Beames, the present officiating Commissioner, will be confirmed in the appointment. We are glad to be able to state that since Mr. Beames' transfer to Bengal Proper he has greatly moderated. He is an able and zealous officer; his only fault was that he sometimes allowed his zeal to outrun his judgment, but he has now sobered down, and we are glad to learn that he is becoming popular in his Division.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Report on the Administration of the N.W. P. and Oudh for 1880-81. 2. Archaeological Survey of India. Vol. XII. Report of Tours in the Central Doab and Gorakhpur in 1874-75 and 1875-76. By A. C. L. Carlile, First Assistant Archaeological Survey. 3. Report on the Administration of Pudukota for 1880-81. 4. Indian Telegraph Guide, Part I and II containing Rules and Rates for Inland Telegrams (Corrected up to 1st January 1882). 5. Records of the Geological Survey of India Vol. XIV, Part 4, 1881. 6. A Paper on the Registration of Mahomedan Marriages. By D. Hossain Ahmed, B. A. 7. Notes on Physical Geography for the use of Candidates preparing for the Entrance Examination. By Dvija Das Dutt, M. A., Lecturer, College Classes, Bethune School. 8. Sudharshana-Chintanika or Studies in Indian Philosophy, Vol. V, No. 10, October, 1881. 9. Report of the Bijour Agricultural Society for 1880-81. 10. Messrs. Thomson Brothers' new Catalogue of Ready-Money stores. 11. Second Annual Report of the Barripore Public Library for the Bengali year 1287-88. 12. Journal of the National Indian Association for December 1881. 13. Bamatoshini—a story in Bengali—by Peary Chand Mitra. 14. Messrs. D.

Hay and Sons' Almanac and Catalogue of Stores for 1882. 15. An Enlarged new Map of India (Preliminary Edition) in 6 sheets from the Surveyor General's Office.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1881.

THE VICEROY IN BRITISH BURMA.

LORD RIPON is the first Viceroy, who has paid a visit to British Burma. His Lordship has been received with enthusiastic demonstrations of joy. At a public dinner given to His Excellency, Mr. Bernard, the Chief Commissioner, proposed his health. He said, "they were glad that the Viceroy who had come to Rangoon was Lord Ripon, and that he was accompanied by his noble Lady, who had lightened his labours and shared his anxieties for more than half a life time, spent in the public service. Lord Ripon had always taken the greatest interest in people who were backward or depressed, whether in England or elsewhere. He could not say whether Lord Ripon, in middle age, had mellowed into what some people called a Moderate Liberal; but so far as His Excellency's orders had reached Burma regarding education and agriculture, they showed that he still retained something of Radical sympathies, in that he wished to promote freedom and to help all who were down. The return of peace had enabled him to spend more money on material improvements, and sanction had already been given for the Tounghoo Railway for which the merchants had clamoured so long. He thought the Province was happy and its nobles loyal and contented. Just now they had to face a great fall in the price of rice but he thought the cost of production might be lessened and the evil removed. They were troubled with what they believed to be the unwise policy of their neighbour, owing to which trade was restricted with Upper Burma. But, he believed, time would bring its remedy. In conclusion, he would only say he had ventured to couple the name of Lady Ripon with that of His Excellency because they were very glad to see her in the Province, the only one in our Eastern Dominions where women were free and happy." Mr. Bernard was quite right in eulogizing the liberal sympathies of Lord Ripon, but in India all statesmen, and for the matter of that all administrators, whatever their English party predilections, are liberal, aye radical. India is a *tabula rasa*, and Indian administrators are sometimes too ready to imprint their individuality upon it, regardless of the actual condition and requirements of the country. His Excellency in reply said:

"You are quite right when you say I am a friend to a peaceful policy. Not because I should not be prepared upon any occasion when the true interests or honour of England and India were at stake, to strike a blow—a quick and ready blow (apause)—for the defence of those great interests, but because I believe, as stated by a great and distinguished statesman, Lord Derby, that the true interest of England is peace, and I hold that that saying is yet more true of India, and it is to the continuance of that peace that we must look for the advancement of that progress which is so great and remarkable in Burma, but yet shows signs of existence and advancement in other parts of India. In Burma the signs are unmistakable, whether we look to the population, the trade, the Railway returns, or the shipping; or take any other tests and compare the condition of Burma at the present day with what it was ten years ago. That progress is not merely the result of some great leap which might have resulted from accidental circumstances, in the course of that decade, but is a steady progress, advancing continually,—a progress which is as marked between last year and the present year in due proportion as between the present year and ten years ago. I have been reading with the greatest possible interest the very able Administration Report of the Chief Commissioner, and the Report shows a noble record of work done. If we look to Railway communications, you will see you have one Railway in Burma paying a dividend of four-and-a-half per cent. But there is one subject in which I have felt great interest for a number of years—a greater number, perhaps, than it is agreeable to recall, and that is the

subject of Public education. I rejoice to see that good work has been done here, and that the higher schools are doing their work, and valuable results are obtained from the labours of the Christian brothers in their School of Saint Paul and from the position occupied by the school at Saint John, and how earnestly and zealously the Baptist missionaries are labouring among the wild Karen tribes. I am, however, somewhat disappointed with two points which come out in regard to education: the first is, that, although something is being done for the education of girls, yet there seems to me considerable room for doing a great deal more; for you have not the great difficulty which lies in the way of female education in other parts of India. You have alluded to the freedom of women, and that itself is a feature which ought to make female education easier here than in India, and will, I hope, lead to a great development in the course of years. The other point that I regret to observe is that the municipalities of Burma devote far too small a portion of their funds to the promotion of education. I trust they will be encouraged by you, Sir, to appropriate a larger portion to the purposes of primary education. You are aware that the Government of India have wisely, in my opinion, re-established the Revenue and Agricultural Department. There is a great deal to be done in the development of the agricultural resources of Burma. Many things can be done departmentally which will tend to develop agriculture by procuring a larger supply of labour, introducing labour saving machines, and aiding in the establishment of new branches of agriculture yet undeveloped, like tea, coffee, and tobacco. Mr. Buck has accompanied me that he may advise me and Mr. Bernard as to the best mode of attaining these great and useful ends. It only remains to thank you heartily on behalf of Lady Ripon for the kind manner in which you have spoken of her. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Bernard is quite right; he speaks, doubtless, from his own experiences when he sets that high value upon a good wife and no one knows the worth of a good wife and what aid she may be to a man in the hard work of official business better than I do. Now I am about to ask you to join in drinking the Chief Commissioner's health. When Mr. Aitchison, who by that well-earned recognition of long, able, and eminent services to the Government of India which was conferred on him is now Sir Charles Aitchison,—when he was called last year to take his place in the Supreme Council at Simla, I had to consider to whom I could entrust the duties of this office. I know that Burma was a progressive Province, which needed at its head an able and energetic man, I looked round to see where I could find the best man for the position. I was told on all hands there was no better choice than Mr. Bernard. It was a trial to me to give him up, because, though I had only worked with him for a month, that month was quite enough to tell the value of his services at the Home office; but I felt it my duty, in the interests of this great Province, to choose a man distinguished for earnestness of purpose, zeal for the public service, by marked abilities, untiring energy, and above all to choose a man who would have a deep and heartfelt sympathy with the people over whom he was called to rule; and, ladies and gentlemen, I rejoice to find that after some ten months experience of the results of my choice, Mr. Bernard's conduct in this administration has fully proved the justice of my judgment."

British Burma is one of the new appanages of the British Indian Empire, and its progress has been remarkable. It was acquired by Lord Dalhousie; Lord Canning used to take a lively interest in it. Lord Mayo had set his eyes upon it, but His Lordship was unfortunately cut off by the foul hand of an assassin. But His Lordship had sown the seeds of progress by diverting the line of succession as it were in the administration of British Burma. Hitherto it was the inheritance of the military service. It was His Lordship, who first appointed a Civilian at the head of the local administration, and the first Civilian Chief Commissioner was no less a personage than Sir Ashley Eden. Sir Ashley infused a new life into British Burma, and he was succeeded by Mr. Rivers Thompson, who carried on his work vigorously. Mr. now Sir Charles Aitchison, succeeded Mr. Thompson, and his success was marked. Mr. Bernard now rules the land, and we subscribe to every word of the encomiums passed upon him by His Excellency the Viceroy. British Burma within the last decade has made a wonderful progress, and we believe it is founded on a solid basis.

His Lordship made the following cheering statement for the benefit of the Uncovenanted Service:

The Government of India received some time ago representations from the Chief Commissioner, pointing out the necessity of improving the position of native officials in this province. Those representations have received the most careful consideration from the Government, and although I am not at this moment in a position to communicate to you the detailed conclusions at which we are likely to arrive, it is a pleasure to me to be able to say that we recognise the importance of bettering the position, not in British Burmah only, but throughout India of those Uncovenanted Servants of the Government upon whose zeal and good conduct the good administration of the country so largely depends; and that I hope it may be in our power shortly to make known the measures, which we propose, to adopt for that purpose and which will I have every reason to hope, meet the wishes of the Chief Commissioner.

This announcement will raise high hopes in the Uncovenanted Service, and we trust Lord Ripon will remain at the helm of Indian affairs long enough to fulfil those hopes.

RECIPROCITY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND INDIA.

WHILE Manchester is agitating for the total repeal of the cotton duties, it does not choose to consider what is the actual condition of Indian finance, what will be the practical result of the fruition of its policy, and whether England is doing unto India what she wishes that India should do unto her. The *Saturday Review* in noticing the reply of the Marquis of Hartington to the address of the Manchester Deputation points out, as we endeavoured to point out the other day, that the opposition of India to the repeal is not prompted by protectionist views, that in fact the present duties have no protective tendency. As the *Reviewer* says: "As a matter of fact, the great majority of the persons, who guide public opinion in India, have no sympathy with protection, and are quite as sound in their economic views as are the majority of those who, during the last five-and-thirty years, have guided public opinion in this country. It is very probable that the owners of the cotton mills at Bombay would like to retain the duties as a protection to their own manufactures, and it is possible that during the last few months the unwise attempts which had been made in various quarters in this country to revive protection under the guise of Fair trade may have tinged the writings of the half-educated Natives who, for the most part, conduct the vernacular newspapers in India. But it cannot be said with any sort of reason that the opposition which during the last five years has been offered in India to the repeal of the cotton duties and which, indeed, was led by Lord Hartington's colleague, the Earl of Northbrook, has had any connection with Protectionist views or theories. Public opinion in India—at all events that public opinion which makes itself heard in this country—is the opinion of the English officials, of the English merchants and barristers and other professional men of the Anglo-Indian Press, and to a limited extent of the educated classes of the Native community. The general tendency of that opinion is certainly not to run counter to views generally accepted by English statesmen and economists." Quite so, but unfortunately India has been sacrificed for the sake of the exigencies of party politics in England. The *Reviewer* justly remarks: "The truth is that in this matter, the leaders of English politics on both sides, acting in deference to what they regard as the exigencies of their respective parties, have taken a course which no prudent statesman would have adopted, who considered himself free to deal with the question on its merits." But the cotton duties are doomed. To quote the *Reviewer* again: "The resolution which has just been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, as announced in the *Times* telegram on Monday last, shows that the duties on grey goods cannot be retained in their present form. The remainder of those duties will probably be swept away in the next Budget; and if we may judge of the future from the experience of the past, it is not unsafe to affirm that the surrender of the duties upon the higher classes of goods, to which at the present moment no protective character can be justly assigned, is merely a question of time. With these last mentioned duties will probably disappear the remainder of the import duties upon other articles of commerce. The meaning of all this is to cut off from the receipt side of the Indian Budget a source of income

which a few years ago yielded an annual revenue of two and-a-half millions; and if in a few years more the abolitionists of the opium trade are allowed to have their way, the Indian Finance Minister will find his revenue diminished altogether by a sum not far short of eleven millions." And how will India recoup this tremendous loss? She will be simply bankrupt! And yet English manufacturers, blinded by self-interest, and English philanthropists, carried away by maudlin sentimentality, will not stoop to look at this terrible situation. Was Edmund Burke wrong when he said that if India should be ever lost to England it would be in the House of Commons?

As to reciprocity the question is glaring enough. It was the heavy customs duty of England which destroyed our sugar trade. England's object was to foster slave-grown sugar, and the free labour of India could not compete with slave labour. The cotton fabrics of India used to clothe the Caesars of Rome, but Manchester has destroyed the cotton industry of India. The weavers are now the most wretched class in India. At the present moment, while Manchester is demanding free trade with India, England deliberately levies a heavy duty on some of the new and rising industries of India. She takes a duty of 14s. per cwt. on coffee, and 2d. per lb. upon ditto Kiln-dried, roasted or ground. In 1879 the value of importation of coffee from India was as follows: Bombay and Sind, £138,922, Madras, £755,019, and Bengal and British Burma £16,863. Indian tea pays a duty of 6d. per lb. and the value of the importations of tea into England in 1879 was as follows: Bombay and Sind, £8715, Madras £9007, Bengal and Burma, £2,894,190. The quantity imported into England in 1879 was 38,300,930 lbs. and the total duty paid was £950,773. Then tobacco pays a duty in this wise; tobacco containing 10lbs more of moisture in every 100 lbs., 3s. 6d. per lb. and that containing less than 10 lbs. of moisture for every 100 lbs. 3s. 10d. per lb.; manufactured tobacco containing more than 13 lbs. of moisture in every 100 lbs. 4s. 1d. per lb., cigars 5s. 6d. per lb. Now, all these, we mean coffee, tea, and tobacco are new and rising industries in India. The Government of India is doing its best to foster them. It has gone to the length of passing a very stringent law for the promotion of the interests of the tea planter, though it bears hard upon the poor labourer. The total amount spent in India upon tea by the manufacturers is about two millions per annum, of which about one-half, say one million, goes to cover the wages of the labourers, and England takes about the same amount or a million as customs duty upon tea. India used to get four-fifths of a million upon the cotton goods of England, that revenue is now reduced to about one-half, and Manchester is still crying for the total abolition of the cotton duties. The cotton goods are certainly necessary articles, but the duty having been taken off from coarse goods, what now remains does not by any means press upon the poor. But tea is a necessary of life with the Englishman, it is as essential to him as bread and butter, and yet England does not hesitate to levy a duty of 6d. per every lb. of tea imported into England. Surely there are stronger reasons for the repeal of the tea duty than for the abolition of the remainder of the cotton duties in India. But Manchester is crying for the one, and has not a word to say about the other. England is rich, and if she will abandon the tea duty, she can easily recoup her loss, but India is poor, and if she loses the revenue from the cotton duties—she has already lost one-half—she cannot easily recover the loss. Such is the comparative condition of the two countries and such the reciprocity between them in the matter of the customs duty.

THE ASSAM EMIGRATION BILL.

For the sake of some of our contemporaries, for whose opinion we have high respect, we drop the title of Slave Bill, which from honest conviction we gave to the Assam Emigration Bill. The *Indian Tea Gazette* says, "it is no less than a distinct charge against the Government, the Legislative Department, and those representing the Tea-planting Industry, of creating an enactment to further the interests of Tea proprie-

tors at the expense and to the serious detriment of the native labourer on Tea gardens. In fact, the *Patriot* describes the Bill as 'a slave law in disguise.' The *Indian Daily News* says: "Now if the titles of articles be any indication of the temper in which they are conceived, then we feel assured that, on reflection, the *Hindoo Patriot* will admit that the following titles to the memorial, and to its leaders are a very grave error, to say the least of it: *The Protest of the British Indian Association against the Slave Bill. The Slave Bill Deferred. The Slave Bill Examined.* The reiterated use of the phrase, the 'Slave Bill,' is simply a piece of angry clap-trap. Common sense will tell any one that the whole policy of the Government of India must be misunderstood, and even misrepresented by the wilful use of such a phrase." It is the distinguishing virtue of John Bull that he never hesitates to call a spade a spade, and we did not for a moment believe that in following his good example we would be misunderstood and charged with "angry clap-trap." Certainly, the title would be worse than a blunder if the text did not justify it, but we hope we have said enough to show that the character of the Bill did warrant the title we gave it. But as our contemporaries take exception to the title, we are quite willing to drop it. And after all what's in a name? We adopted that name to emphasize our disapproval of the Bill in its present form, and as our remarks and opinions have not been controverted, we do not care for the name. Need we say that if it could be shewn that our opinions are erroneous, we would readily correct them.

We will first notice what the *Indian Tea Gazette* says on the subject. Our contemporary remarks: "And first as to free immigration tending towards a system of slavery in disguise. Most people would think that where voluntariness steps in, compulsion and slavery must die out." But we did not say that "free immigration was slavery in disguise." We urged that either the time has arrived for free immigration or it has not. If it has, then there is no necessity for the present Bill, but if there is necessity for the Bill, then the time for free immigration has not arrived—it cannot be consistent to blow hot and cold in the same breath. Then the writer says: "Next—That the agitation for an amendment of Act VII. B. C. of 1873 originated with the planting interest is perfectly true, and it is as perfectly natural as true. Act VII. was framed absolutely in the interests of the labourer, with a serious disregard to the interests of men who had sunk their all in an industry which has been the means of giving comfort and comparative wealth to thousands and thousands of coolies who would otherwise have probably starved at home, or dragged on a lingering existence such as now do the labouring classes in many parts of India." The planters have been ruined in the process—"a ruin contributed to, in no small degree, by a one-sided, unnecessary, and unjust law; one which was never required, even at the beginning, in so stringent a form, and which now, in the altered circumstances which have followed, naturally, from the growth of the Enterprise, is hardly needed at all." Again: "The *Patriot* says, 'not a single point has been urged for the protection of the interests of the labourer.' No; and for a very good reason: his interests were over-protected already." This is outspoken, and we like outspokenness. Our contemporary says, though not in so many words, that hitherto the law has been the coolie's law, we want a planter's bill, we have got it, and mean to keep it, for in a foot-note to his article he says: "since the above was written, we notice that the Bill has been referred back to the Select Committee, at the instance of the Hon'ble Jotendromohun Tagore, but we have no fear of the ultimate results." Yes, he has "no fear of the ultimate results." And why should he have any fear? The Select Committee were pledged to the Bill, and they could not be expected to eat their own words for the sake of a solitary Native member added to their body.

The *Indian Daily News* takes a different ground. In the first place it says that "the British Indian Association has made a serious

mistake, in the manner in which it has opposed the Assam Coolie Bill, called for as much in the interests of the coolies as in the interests of the planters." We have shewn above that the *Indian Tea Gazette* holds that the Bill is needed more in the interests of the planter than in those of the coolie, who has had his day. "Hitherto," our contemporary continues, "the heaviest of the weights upon the profitable development of that industry has been the cost of importing labour." And this Bill is intended to lighten this cost—necessarily at the expense of the labourer. One of the first steps in this direction is the extension of the term of the contract from three to five years. Of course this will reduce the cost of importation, but may we ask one or two questions? If free labour is what the planters and the Government want, why not set the labourer free after three years, and if he finds his occupation so much profitable—and as the *Tea Gazette* says, "certainly it cannot be said of the native of India, however ignorant or poor he may be, that he is not always most keenly alive to his own interests"—surely he would renew his contract after the expiration of his term. Why then chain him down to a contract for five years? The Bill provides that the minimum wages of the labourer for the last two years shall be Rs. 6 instead of Rs. 5 per month? Suppose he gets more, he will have no opportunity of acquiring it. Will not this be tantamount to saving the pocket of the planter at the expense of the labourer? Our contemporary is candid enough to say: "The Government must also recognise, that a planter, on a tea garden, with several hundred coolies attached thereto, holds towards those coolies a peculiar social, paternal, and even a political, relationship. That his position gives him great power, and that while his interests all point one way,—that is in the direction of the fair treatment of the coolies—local, temporary, and other influences may at times sway him, even against his interests." Such being the case the Government ought to hold the scale of justice with an even hand, and it is because the Bill is not evenly balanced, we protest against it. We are ready to admit that the tea industry has done good to the country—it has drawn European capital, energy, and enterprise to this land—it has opened a new outlet to labour, and it has led to an expenditure of about a million of money in the country annually. But has it not benefited England more than India? Most of the planters are Englishmen; they or their predecessors got the lands for mere song; the first planters carried on cultivation with a high hand and the bare buttocks and swollen cheeks of the unfortunate labourers attested the slave-driving zeal of the Legrees of the first era, but a better day we believe has dawned, and the planters are now-a-days certainly more kind and considerate. Well, whatever profits they make they carry the same home. Then they pay to England an annual tribute of a million in the shape of duty upon tea. So much for the gain to England. Indian gains about a million as the wages of labour, but we wish some one would take the trouble and count the thousands and hundreds of thousands of lives of poor coolies lost on the deadly plantations before they became fit for human habitation. Thus the million that is being spent in India as the wages of tea labour has been bought with the life-blood of the early fathers of labour on the plantations. But we are not jealous of the gain to England. We are well aware that unaided India cannot do much in the field of enterprise, and that there should therefore be mutual co-operation between England and India, never mind what India's share of profit might be. But the law ought to be fair and equal to both the capitalist and the labourer—to both the Englishman and the Indian. And both the British Indian Association and we in these columns have endeavoured to shew on what points the Bill is not fair and equal. And surely in doing so we have not been actuated by any feeling of race-antagonism, but this is the ungenerous charge which both our estimable contemporaries bring against us. If to advocate the cause of truth, justice and humanity be to foster antagonism of race, we are quite willing to take our trial before any jury in the world's tribunal.

The *Indian Daily News* finds fault with the British Indian Association for coming up so late on the subject. Now, we explained last week that it was Hobson's choice with the Association. The Bill of the Commission, it is true, had been published in January last, but as it had not received the imprimatur of the Government, it did not know what the decision of Government would be. For instance on one vital point, the extension of the term of the contract from three to five years, the Government of India in June 1880 had given an adverse decision, but it has since changed its opinion. Then the Bengali translation of the Bill did not appear until the 25th October last. So properly speaking the Bill had been before the native public scarcely a month and a half before the report of the Select Committee. Was the Association then to blame for coming up late? Then, again, no opportunity had been given to the native public for expression of opinion. We have already said that no native member was appointed to the Commission. In respect of other bills the Government generally invites native opinion both in the town and the mofussil, but in this instance the rule was more honored in the breach than in the observance thereof. Then the Bill was introduced at Simla, and the native member of the Council had no opportunity of expressing his opinion at the initiatory stage. The Select Committee did not also include any native member. The Bill was proposed to be passed in Calcutta contrary to the pledge given by Government to discuss all important Bills in Calcutta. It was in the time of Lord Northbrook we believe when in consequence of a demonstration in Calcutta by the European community, in which we had also joined, against the Tariff Bill, the Government had promised that if any important Bill should be introduced at Simla it should be again introduced at Calcutta, so as to give the non-official members an opportunity to discuss it before its principle would be affirmed. But this pledge was forgotten in the case of this Bill, though its importance could not be denied, possibly on the supposition that a pledge need not be looked into when niggers were concerned. So much for the British Indian Association not taking time by the forelock.

Leaving the Association our contemporary makes the following animadversions upon our humble selves:

"Usually, this paper, is conducted with a sound judgment and honesty, and a fullness of knowledge, which makes its perusal a necessity to any one who is sincerely desirous of taking up Indian questions, or of understanding the many complex problems of life in India. The ability, consistency, and general temper of the *Hindoo Patriot*, places it far and away in advance of any of its contemporaries. It is, indeed, so far in advance of the majority of the native papers that these latter could, as a rule, afford to imitate it not only with advantage to themselves, but with a decided advantage to the Government and to the native community. Yet on this particular question of labour in the tea districts, we find the *Hindoo Patriot* guilty of an excess of bad taste, which is not only surprising in such a journal, but which produces in the reader a sensation of absolute pain. It lays aside its high and well deserved character, and appears without warning to be afflicted with the literary rabies of the most extreme of its native contemporaries."

We thank our contemporary for the kind opinion he entertains of us, and we should be extremely sorry to forfeit that opinion. But we repeat that nothing is further from our thought than to foster race-antagonism or to throw wilful obstructions in the way of European enterprise in India. We think he will do us the justice to say that we in our humble way have done something to assuage the angry feeling of race not only by our writings in these columns, but also by our labours elsewhere and by personal intercourse and co-operation with the representatives of the non-official European community, among whom we have the pleasure to count some of our best friends. But we cannot believe that they will attribute our honest advocacy of the cause of the poor, ignorant labourer to an estrangement of feeling from them. Did we fail to acknowledge their beneficent influence when the Factory Bill was before the Council? But if we now protest against the Assam Emigration Bill, it is not because we cherish any hostile

feeling, but because we do honestly believe that the Bill totally disregards the very first principles of right, liberty, justice and humanity.

Just as we were going to press last Saturday's *Pioneer* has come to hand, which contains a leader on our first article on the Assam Emigration Bill, entitled "*A Slave Law on the anvil*." We have quoted the Allahabad paper in another column to show that it seems to sympathize with the protest made by the Native public against the Bill. The writer cannot evidently eat his own words, but as a weather-cock it cleverly veers round by taking objection to the title and tone of our article. He says, "while opinions may remain in abeyance as to whether particular parts of the proposed Bill are as well designed as they might be to secure the protection of the laborer, the final conclusion one is forced to is that this talk about slavery in disguise, is a mere rhetorical flourish, and in application to the Bill under review, pure nonsense." But it is all a matter of opinion, viz., whether the Bill wherein it fails not only to protect the poor labourer but also takes away from him the common rights of a free subject and a free agent deserves the name of "Slave Law" or not. Our contemporary thinks that our articles would be quite unobjectionable in constitutional England, where party politics balance the order of public discussion, but they are out of place in this country, which, he does not say in so many words but he evidently means, is governed by beneficent despotism, and where criticism of public measures by natives is simply impertinence. We quite see this, though we confess we expected a better feeling on the part of our contemporary from his recent conversion to the lofty principles of theosophy, but if we have followed a different course, it has been from a firm reliance upon the righteous gentleman in charge of the Bill and upon the righteous spirit of Lord Ripon's rule, believing as we do that his Lordship will not knowingly seal with his sanction any one-sided and unjust measure.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS IN INDIA.

AN important resolution in the Revenue and Agricultural Department of the Government of India has recently been published. Its object is to define the lines on which the work of the Agricultural Department in this country is to be carried out. The Famine Commission have thus described the duties of such departments: "Firstly, complete and systematic ascertaining and rendering available of the statistics of vital, agricultural, and economic facts for every part of India, in order that Government and its officers may always be in possession of an adequate knowledge of the actual condition of the country. Secondly, the general improvement of Indian agriculture, with the view of increasing the food-supply and general resources of the people. Thirdly, better and prompt organization of famine relief, whenever the actual approach of famine may be indicated by the statistical information." The objects thus described may be briefly designated as agricultural inquiry, agricultural improvement, and famine relief. The Resolution under notice does not discuss the question of Famine Relief. The Draft Famine Code prepared by the Secretary to the Famine Commission has been referred to various local authorities for an expression of their opinion, and until their views are known, the Supreme Government cannot consider what special organization may be required to meet the exigencies of famine. There then remain the other two objects—namely agricultural inquiry and agricultural improvement.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Famine Commissioners, the Government of India has made up its mind to organize a local Department of Agriculture in each province for the systematic prosecution of all agricultural inquiry. "The importance of this view, which directs attention to those duties of the Agricultural Department, which must precede any attempt at agricultural improvement," the Resolution says, "has hitherto been far too greatly overlooked. Indications, not altogether absent from the proposals submitted in connection with Agricultural

Departments have, from time to time and in various ways, been afforded to the Government of India that in public and official opinion the first and main duty of an Agricultural Department is to be the conduct of agricultural experiments and the supervision of model farms. This supposition is one which, at the outset, it is desirable to correct, as it obscures the relative importance of the various objects which the Agricultural Departments now contemplated are intended to fulfil." It is satisfactory that the Government of India has now recognized that the first and main duty of an Agricultural Department in this country is not the conduct of agricultural experiments and the supervision of model farms. We should very much like to know how much public money has been expended on such experiments in various parts of the country and what have been the practical results of this expenditure. Lord Mayo said nothing but the truth when he declared that it would be perfectly useless to teach the Indian cultivator such things as he has not the means of carrying out. Yet one of the very things which the late Etcetera Department did was to establish model farms in various parts of the country at a considerable expenditure. The ryot has not derived the slightest benefit from the costly experiments conducted on these farms. How much public money might have been saved, if the establishment of model farms and the conduct of agricultural experiments thereon had not been undertaken. The Government of India admits that the late Revenue and Agricultural Branch of its Secretariat did not do much practical good, and it makes an attempt to explain away its failure. But the explanation cannot carry conviction to the mind of a sensible and unprejudiced person. The organization of the resuscitated Revenue and Agricultural Branch of the Government of India Secretariat does not materially differ from that of the Etcetera Department over which Mr. Allan Hume ably presided for 8 years and which was rightly abolished by Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey as a useless incumbrance. The only difference is that Mr. Buck, the new Secretary of the Central Bureau, has practically been constituted Minister of Agriculture which Mr. Hume was not. The statement that there was not in 1871 an Agricultural Department under any of the Provincial Administrations, is calculated to mislead the public. True, no Provincial Department of Agriculture existed when the Etcetera Department was established by Lord Mayo; but four years afterwards a local Department of Agriculture was organized by Sir John Strachey in the North-Western Provinces and placed under Mr. Buck. This Department has now been in existence for nearly seven years—not four as is stated in the resolution under notice; and as it was during almost the whole of this period presided over by the present Minister of Agriculture, its failure to accomplish the objects which it was intended to fulfil must not be overlooked in considering the desirability of organizing local Departments of Agriculture.

We have said above that the main objects of an Agricultural Department in India, as at present defined, will be agricultural inquiry and agricultural improvement. The Department will first investigate facts with a view to ascertaining what is necessary to preserve the stability of agricultural operations. The Government of India approvingly quotes the words of the Famine Commissioners, who say that "the success of an Agricultural Department would mainly depend on the completeness and accuracy with which agricultural and economic facts are collected in each village and compiled in each sub-division and district throughout the country." Let us examine what success the North-Western Department of Agriculture has since its establishment in 1875 achieved in the prosecution of agricultural inquiry. The work of the Department under this head may be divided into (1) Village Records; (2) Traffic Registration; (3) Agricultural Statistics. In describing the operations of the Department in connection with Village Records, Mr. Wright who acted for Mr. Buck during the greater part of 1880-81 and who wrote the Administration Report for that year, frankly says that the existing state of affairs is not satisfactory and points out the drawbacks

of the present system. Mr. Buck fondly believes that his famous Patwari and Kannugo Code has achieved wonders. But Mr. Wright has given a rude shock to this belief and his fearless frankness has probably cost him the Directorship, which has been conferred on an officer, who is his junior by many years. He tells us that many Collectors consider Mr. Buck's Rules unworkable. And it should be remembered that this elaborate Code has been framed for securing the honesty and efficiency of a class of public servants, the vast majority of whom draw magnificent salaries ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 12 per mensem, or much less than the earnings of a common railway porter. Mr. Buck, of course, imagines that since his famous "Institutes" came into operation there has been a remarkable improvement in the patwaris, and that under the new system the Village Records "must perforce contain a very great deal of truth than they did of old when they were generally drawn up in the patwari's house, and very often at some distance from the village which they concerned." But even his most ardent admirer, the *Pioneer*, is obliged to ask—"Has he not heard, even amid the *ispahans* of reform whispers of such things as papers written up wholesale by hired agents or patwaris who lived at a distance of 15 or 20 miles from the circles nominally under their charge?" If Mr. Buck has not heard of such things we must say he has wilfully shut his ears to them. As regards the work of the Department in connection with traffic registration, Mr. Wright tells us that the Department cannot guarantee the accuracy of the returns of road traffic, though great care has been taken to ensure it. And so far as foreign traffic is concerned, Mr. Wright admits "that it is impossible to look for more than approximate accuracy, and frontier registration will always remain the most unsatisfactory portion of the Department." Statistics, the accuracy of which cannot be guaranteed, are worse than useless. The Department has, no doubt, succeeded in collecting reliable statistics of railway-borne traffic; but then a special and costly organization is not required for obtaining such statistics from the various railway authorities. Respecting the collection of agricultural statistics, Mr. Wright observes:—"The very imperfect performance by the department of what would appear to be one of its principal duties, the collection of agricultural statistics, cannot fail to be a matter of regret. It only prepares a brief *resume* of the results of each harvest, and is able to give no statistics of outturn or area." Such a *resume* can be easily prepared by an ordinary Secretariat clerk. Now, we cannot find a better man than Mr. Buck to preside over a local Agricultural Department; and when under his able guidance the North-West Department failed to accomplish the objects which it was intended to fulfil, what hope is there that the other Provincial Departments, which are about to be organized at a considerable additional expenditure, would be able to achieve better success?

The final object of agricultural inquiry, we are told, is to urge through its means, and as a practical outcome of its "results, the policy of maintaining agricultural operations at the highest attainable standard of efficiency." In discussing the question of promoting agricultural improvement, we would remind Mr. Buck that no less an authority than Mr. Allan Hume has pointed out in emphatic terms that, so far as non-scientific agriculture is concerned, the Indian cultivator has nothing to learn from his rulers. And we have over and over again remarked in these columns that the practice of improved methods of tillage is beyond the means of ordinary ryots, who have no resources beyond the current harvest. The North-West Department of Agriculture has, doubtless, shown that by the application of bone-dust a clear additional profit of Rs. 7 per acre may be netted. But in manuring a holding of five acres the ryot would have to lay out Rs. 40 before he could expect to get Rs. 35. An enthusiastic agricultural reformer like Mr. Buck does not, we know, concern himself with such vulgar considerations as rupees, annas and pice. Such things are obviously beneath his dignity. The Indian ryot is willing to adopt new staples and new implements when he is convinced that their introduction will pay. In proof of this we need only

instance the recent remarkable extension of jute cultivation in Bengal and of sugarcane cultivation in Behar and the success of the Behar Sugar Mill. If Mr. Buck's famous plough does not find purchasers except on estates under the Court of Wards, the unfortunate result is not due to the stupidity and conservatism of the ryot, but to other causes, which we need not be mentioned here. The Government of India assures us that in many provinces the Agricultural Department has succeeded in ascertaining the cause of agricultural difficulties and distress in any locality in which they exist, it will at once apply a remedy to the evil. Well, the cause of Agricultural distress in Jhansi is well known. Has the North-West Department of Agriculture during the seven years done anything to remove it? Again, the peasantry throughout the Doab have for many years been the victims of village Shylocks. Has any thing been done to enable them to obtain advances on easy terms, though Sir John Strachey indicated that the collection of information with a view to establishing agricultural banks should be one of the first duties of the newly created North-West Department of Agriculture? Before the Government of India talks of applying the physical researches of the West to the agricultural system of this country, let it reform its revenue system which has ruined the landholding classes in the Deccan, in Jhansi and several other parts of the country, and adopt measures for accommodating the cultivator with small loans at moderate interest. When these two things have been done, there will be time enough to discuss the large question of promoting agricultural improvement in India through the agency of a special department.

INDIAN PROBLEMS FOR ENGLISH CONSIDERATION.

II.

HAVING shown that British rule in India has been a practical failure, Mr. Digby institutes a comparison between it and Native administration. The stern facts Englishmen have to face are that forty millions of the Indian people are in a chronic state of starvation; that during the past twenty years over nine millions have died from want of food; and that since the transfer of India to the direct Government of the British Crown the public debt has been trebled. British rule, Mr. Digby remarks, is worse than Native administration in time of calamity. This was conclusively proved during the late famine in Southern India. Mr. Digby writes:—"Mysore and the Nizam's dominions are both Native States. The first-named State, at that time, was under the special control of the Government of India, and was administered by a strong force of English officials. To say nothing of the money-loss involved in crop-failure, the destruction in other respects was frightful; one fourth of the population was swept away. In the latter State, where an able Indian statesman holds the reins of power, the distress was grappled with in a masterly manner in the earlier stages of the calamity and the death-rate was only slightly above the average." Mr. Digby might have cited another and a stronger instance. The British districts in Bundelkhand have not yet recovered from the disastrous effects of the famine of 1868-69; while the circumadjacent Native districts which suffered with equal severity from the same calamity are now fairly prosperous. The reason why England has failed to properly govern India is obvious. Englishmen in the plenitude of their insular pride do not avail themselves of Indian experience. Under English administration the soil of the country is proving less productive year by year, the old native manufactures have died out, or have been superseded by European fabrics. Even Mr. Justice Cuninghame, in his recently published work *British India and its Rulers*, is constrained by the force of facts to admit that under English rule famines have occurred with greater regularity and with more terrible effect, and that our present masters have killed the manufactures of the country. Mr. Digby says: "It will not weary the reader with statistics on the point: they are at hand for the curious who may desire them. As an example of the harm which has been

wrought, Mr. Mahdi Ali's answer to a question put to him by the Famine Commission will suffice. 'In the Nizam's Dominions,' he said, 'the manufacturing classes have broken down in the same way as they have done in other parts of India. The famous brocades of Aurungabad, the silk stuffs turned out by the looms at Paitan, the filigree work of Bidar, the carpets of Warrangal, and the cotton stuffs of Nandar, all the manufactures are on the wane, and these industries are fast dying out of the country.' It is we of the English race, who have killed these industries; upon us lies the serious responsibility of repairing the mischief we have done, and—let the efforts needed be never so toilsome—to take care that we leave, if some object to the expression of such a contingency—that we are careful to govern India better than we found it governed." After having killed our indigenous manufactures, the English would as an act of bare justice, have fostered the rising cotton industry of the country; but they have done everything in their power to suppress it by the repeal of the import duties on the coarser kinds of cotton goods and the introduction of factory legislation.

Coming to the financial administration of the Empire, Mr. Digby points out that during the past forty years there have been two years of insolvency for one of solvency; that the net deficit in this period was £76,908,484; and that since 1840 the public debt has more than quadrupled. It is, however, a matter for deep regret that Mr. Digby entertains most unsound views on the opium and salt questions. In discussing these important sources of our revenue, he unfortunately allows himself to be guided by the opinions of sentimental philanthropists of Exeter Hall. He contends that the opium traffic is a sore burden on the conscience of England, and that the Chinese Government sincerely desires to put down the consumption of opium among its subjects. Now we would remind Mr. Digby that an Englishman who denounces the opium traffic throws himself open to the retort—"Physician, heal thyself!" The consequences of the consumption of opium are certainly not more pernicious than those of the use of intoxicating liquors. As Dr. Moore, in his article on the opium question in the *Indian Medical Gazette* remarks, it has yet to be proved that the moderate use of opium is at all more injurious than the moderate use of spirits. That a sensible man like Mr. Digby should have echoed the cry of the fanatics of Exeter Hall against the opium traffic has greatly surprised and grieved us. Is it true that the Chinese Government is sincere in its wish that the opium traffic should be abolished? We have lately written so much on the subject that we care not to repeat our facts and statements.

We would simply ask—do the facts given by us accord with what we are told with a nauseating iteration by Exeter Hall politicians that great efforts are being made by Chinese officials to put down the cultivation of the poppy in China? The simple truth is as Dr. Moore has remarked, the Chinese want to suppress the Indian opium traffic solely to prevent China being drained of its silver. Mr. Digby thinks that the stoppage of the opium traffic is possible without causing bankruptcy. This subject he reserves for treatment in a separate pamphlet. When this pamphlet is published, it will receive our careful attention. As regards the salt tax, Mr. Digby mentions the enormous revenue derived from it and comes to the conclusion that it is a heavy burden on the people. In this view he is egregiously mistaken. We have shown over and over again in these columns that the salt-tax does not at all press upon the people. It may not be theoretically unobjectionable, but it is the best means we have of taxing the mass of the population; and the tax is collected in such a way that the payers do not feel it at all. If Mr. Digby had confined his remarks to the recent enhancement of the salt duties in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, we could have agreed with him. The equalization of the salt duties throughout India was one of the hobbies of Sir John Strachey; and in order to give effect to "the convictions of a life-time" the late Finance Minister flung away a large revenue in Bengal and in order to recoup the loss, thereby caused increased the tax in Madras and Bombay.

In discussing what Englishmen can do for this country, Mr. Digby reminds them that India being now virtually ruled by the House of Commons, they would be guilty of a serious dereliction of duty if they did not try to understand of the country and use every means in their power to do justice to them. The first requisite, of course, is to understand the people whose destinies have been entrusted to their care. Mr. Digby rightly warns his countrymen against accepting for gospel truth the roseate utterances of official apologists like Dr. Hunter, Sir Richard Temple and Mr. Justice Cunningham. "It is only by close research, and reading between the lines," observes Mr. Digby, "that official documents, in many instances, are found to contain most damaging statements regarding our rule. On the face of things, all is smooth and satisfactory: The balance sheet for the year seems satisfactory. It is only afterwards that the accounts are found to be eight millions wrong, that this sum had actually been spent, when the accounts are made up, and no record of the expenditure appeared. Not wishing for a moment to impute to any one a conscious desire to mislead, I cannot refrain from saying that a more complete misunderstanding is not possible than is contained in the ideas which may be formed upon the statements of those who, from the official standpoint, address the English public on Indian affairs." The rose-coloured pictures of the condition of India drawn by official apologists lead the English public astray. If Englishmen wish to do their duty to India, they should, in the first place, mete out even-handed justice to us in matters financial. In the first place, the over-grown and still rapidly expanding Home charges are draining this country of its very life-blood. Our military expenditure absorbs nearly 45 per cent. of our net revenue, and over the greater part of this expenditure the Government of India has no control whatever. In the second place, the people of India should be given a fair share in the administration of their own country. As Mr. Digby remarks, "a wider field, larger opportunities are imperatively needed for the educated and able men of India." If Sir Salar Jung, Sir Madhava Rao, and Sir Dinkar Rao had not found suitable scope in the Native States for the display of their administrative capacity, they would have had to be content with the charge of a pargana or a seat on an inferior judicial bench. Mr. Digby advocates the establishment of representative assemblies in each Presidency and anticipates much good from Lord Ripon's efforts to develop local self-government. The new policy has, doubtless, been conceived in a spirit of genuine statesmanship; but every thing will hinge on the manner in which it will be carried out by the local authorities.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE UNDERSTAND that Mr. D. M. Barbour will join the Bengal Secretariat next month and that Mr. A. P. MacDonnell will probably go back to the Accountant General's office.

WE BELIEVE that consequent on the death of Mr. W. M. Souttar, Mr. H. L. Harrison will be confirmed in his present appointment of Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and Commissioner of Police. Mr. Harrison has worked well, and deserves to be confirmed.

WE ARE GLAD to learn that the millionaire Seths of Muthura propose to construct a narrow gauge Railway on the principle of the Hathras Railway from Muthura to the holy shrine of Brindaban. The suggestion has come from his Excellency the Viceroy.

THREE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS have been appointed to the Governor General's Legislative Council, viz., Mr. W. W. Hunter, Syud Ahmed Khan Bahadur, C. S. I., and Mr. W. C. Plowden. Dr. Hunter will also continue to act as the Director General of Statistics. We hope he will now have ample leisure to carry on his literary labours. Syud Ahmed Khan Bahadur is appointed to the Council for the second time.

WE ARE requested to announce that the performance of Mr. Chiarini's Circus will commence this evening. The Calcutta season is in full swing, and Mr. Chiarini's artists will be welcomed with pleasure by the Calcutta public. The manager, Mr. Wilson, we are informed, has made excellent arrangements for the accommodation of the public.

REFERRING to our announcement of the appointment of Babu Durgachurn Law to the Shirevalty of Calcutta the *Times of India* says: "We always thought the Shirevalty in Calcutta was a piece of the Chief Justice's patronage." No, the Chief Justice nominates three persons to the office, and the Viceroy appoints by selecting one of them, generally the first on the list. *Apropos* of this appointment we deem it due to contradict the statement of the *Brahmo Public Opinion* that the Chief Justice was opposed to the appointment of Babu Durgachurn Law. If the Chief Justice had been opposed, surely his Lordship would not have sent in the Babu's name. The fact is the Chief Justice had nominated him last year, again on the departure of Mr. Mewburn, and again this year. Babu Durgachurn's name in the first instance stood third on the list, next second, and on the last occasion first. And the Viceroy has appointed him this year as his name stood first on the list. It is most ungenerous to insinuate that Sir Richard Garth is opposed to natives or to native interests. From the day he has set his foot in this country he has shewn by his manners and acts that he warmly sympathises with the children of the soil and takes a lively interest in their welfare. We are really surprised that a paper professing to be the organ of an advanced religious body should seek to foment ill-feeling between the people and one of their best friends by circulating false statements. We hope it will have the good sense to make a suitable apology to the Chief Justice.

AT A meeting of the Bengali residents of Benares, held on the 24th current, a resolution was adopted to raise funds for the commemoration of the Viceroy's recent visit to Benares. The form of the memorial is to be a golden bracelet, one or more of which are to be presented annually to the most successful candidates at the title examinations in Sanskrit at Benares. The prize is to be called 'the Ripon Gold Bracelet.' A sum of Rs. 1,300 was subscribed at the meeting, but it is expected that a much larger sum will soon be realized. His Highness the Maharaja of Benares is well disposed towards the movement, and it is said will subscribe handsomely to it. If the prize be reserved exclusively for outsiders, and not converted into a class reward for the students of the Benares Sanskrit College, it will afford good encouragement to the study of Sanskrit, and we wish the movement every success.

AWAY FROM the cares of an empire Lord Lytton has assumed the more congenial, but not quite so profitable, role of a literary censor. The November No. of the *Nineteenth Century* contains the first sample of his venture in this line, in the form of a critique on "the Love Sonnets of Proteus." It is not expected that a poet with his eyes "in fine phrenzy rolling" would be at all trammelled by the conventionalities of society, and our readers will not wonder to hear Lord Lytton say, "it is not for the practical infidelities of the Italian poets, but for their poetic insincerity that I would reproach them." Of course not; they may indulge in any "practical infidelities" so long they do not run counter to rhetoric. Otherwise, the essay is in every way worthy the author of the Delhi Assemblage. There are in it a gorgeousness of style and a Johnsonian inflation of language that cannot fail to mark it as something out of the common. It may be likened to a roast duck well stuffed with onion and peas and seasoned with a superabundance of Worcester-shire sauce; the meat may not be nice and wholesome, but the garnish of "meticulous," "epicedian assonances" is decidedly ticklish in flavour. Only we would be sorry for the fate of Macaulay's fifth form lad who would appear before Mr. Tawney with any "meticulous" garnish in his essay.

WE THANK Babu Pearychand Mittra for a copy of his last Bengali work, entitled *Bamatoshini*. It is written in the form of a story. Mrs. Monomohini Wheeler, the Inspectress of Government Female Schools in Bengal, thus speaks of this work: "I have read the *Bamatoshini*, and think it a nice story. It will be interesting, and I may say, instructive to the girls and zenana ladies of this country." We cannot sufficiently admire Babu Pearychand Mittra's zealous labours for the instruction and elevation of our womankind.

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to announce the death of Mr. W. M. Souttar, Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. For nearly two years Mr. Souttar was in very bad health, and he breathed his last at Glasgow. His death is mourned by a large circle of friends and admirers. About three years ago he joined the Calcutta Municipality, and although his health soon after began to give way, he did it yeoman's service during the period he drove the Municipal coach. He assumed office at a time when the Municipal exchequer was almost insolvent, but by strong efforts of retrenchment and economy, in which he had been heartily seconded by his colleagues, he brought about an equilibrium between income and expenditure, though not without raising the rate of taxation. But the next year he was enabled by his resolute economy to reduce the rate. Though suffering in health he went on working with the greatest alacrity. His administrative ability and tact were indeed of a high order. He united the heterogeneous elements of the Corporation into a harmonious whole, and there was not a Commissioner, who did not look upon him as his personal friend. His amiability and suavity disarmed opposition. A law-abiding man, he was staunch to the Municipal Constitution, and a warm friend to the great experiment of Municipal self-government in the capital of the empire. To his subordinates he was kind, considerate and affable. The members and servants of the Corporation mourn his untimely death as a personal loss. He was only 37 years of age!

WE HEARTILY welcome Dr. Mahendrolal Sircar's proposal to revive the *Calcutta Journal of Medicine*. That Journal had done much good work in the interest of the Science of Life as the editor appropriately calls the science of medicine, and its discontinuance was a matter of the deepest regret. It did not fall through from want of zeal on the part of its learned editor, but from want of co-operation from his professional brethren. We hope better luck will attend the venture this time. Unfortunately in this country the man, who works, has to do all the work, in fact to slave through, and scarcely receives any appreciable co-operation. Dr. Sircar has the real stuff in him, but what can a single man, single-handed, do? We do hope that his professional brethren of all denominations will co-operate with him in the advancement of the great work he has undertaken.

AS CIVILIZATION is progressing in this country, crime it appears is taking a civilized form. Last week a dacoity on a small scale was committed upon a woman's house near Beadon Street by the application of chloroform upon her. At about 7 P. M. two men entered the house and plundered the woman of all she possessed, she being all the while under the influence of chloroform. Babu Okhoy Kumar Banerjee, Inspector, Jorabagan Thana, who had distinguished himself by detecting the author of the Chitpore Road murder three months ago, was deputed to hold the necessary enquiry. He discovered two Bengali letters, one of which was anonymous, amid a heap of rubbish, written a year ago, and the plot it would seem was being hatched from that time. These letters gave him the clue, and he traced the men at Domjur in the district of Howrah. These men being confronted made a clean breast of the whole affair, and said that the adopted son of the woman had been in league with them. The son has also made a confession of his guilt. He has admitted that he had chloroformed his mother, and let in the men, and that

in order to avoid suspicion he had scratched his neck and throat and chloroformed himself. The stolen property has also been recovered. Great credit is due to Inspector Okhoy Kumar Banerjee for the intelligence and skill with which he has ferreted out the authors of this docoity in *excelsis*.

WE THANK the Surveyor General's Office for a copy of the new map of India, scale 1 inch to 32 miles. The map we understand has been prepared by Mr. James of the Surveyor General's office, and does him much credit. It is a product of unwearied labour. We are informed that it has taken 10 years for completion. It was commenced under the direction of General Sir H. L. Thuillier R. A. C.S.I. and has just been completed under the supervision of General Walker. It contains every British District and native State, all chief towns and places of note the elevations above sea of all important places, passes for all Railways and important roads and canals. The geography beyond the frontier has been corrected by the latest explorations. The map is a marvel of cheapness, as the 6 large sheets, colored, cost only Rupees 6. We do not believe that there is in existence a more elaborate and complete map of India than this.

AS NONE of our contemporaries has published the list of the division on the market question at the last meeting of the Calcutta Corporation we give it below:

Poll on the Amendment.

For.	Against.
Mr. Babonab.	Mr. Fergusson.
Dr. Jagdebundhoo Bose.	Revd. Dr. Banerjee.
Babu Shamal Mitter.	Moulvi Fazlul Rahman.
"Promotho Nath Bose.	" Ahmed.
Mr. A. M. Bose.	Babu Joygobind Law.
Babu Omurto Nath Mitter.	" Kallynath Mitter.
Mr. C. C. Dutt.	Mr. J. Hart.
Babu Surendranath Banerjee.	Babu Nobinchunder Burrall.
" Grindor Coomarr Dutt.	Dr. Kanaylal Day, Rai Bahadur.
" Prao Nath Dutt.	Babu Sree Nath Chunder.
" Prabodhchunder Mullick.	Dr. Rajendralala Mitra.
" Joggeshchunder Dutt.	Hon'ble Kistodas Pal.
" Prannath Pandit.	Babu Romakant Sen.
" Charuchunder Mullick.	" Mudhoo Sudun Dutt.
Moulvi Seraj-ul-Islam.	" Rajnarain Dutt.
Babu Gopeshnath Mookerjee.	Dr. Lal Madhub Mookerjee.
" Sarodachurn Mitter.	Newab Abdul Latiff.
" Radharuman Mitter.	Raja Harendra Krishna.
" Nobinchunder Bose.	Maharaja Narendra Krishna.
" Kallymohun Dass.	Mr. Manuckjee Rustomjee.
" Nemychurn Bysack.	" Caithness.
" Sreenath Ghose.	" Wallis.
" Norendernath Sen.	Babu Premchand Burrall.
" Rajendernath Mitra.	" Gucool Chunder Dhur.
" Sreenath Dass.	The Chairman.
" Kallychurn Banerjee.	

Commissioners who did not vote.

Vice-Chairman.

Babu Judolal Mullick, Babu Nemychurn Bose.

THE PIONEER seems to sympathize with the protest made against the Assam Emigration Bill. Our contemporary welcomes the manful stand made by the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore in Council on the subject. He says: "A straightforward and *bona fide* expression of native feeling on administrative matters is not always so ready to hand that we should regret Maharajah Joteendro Mohun Tagore's opposition to the Bill to amend the Labour Transport Act of 1873. We have got in the way, however, of looking on a debate in the Legislative Council as a mere formality—a preconcerted acceptance, with a decent show of argument, of measures already decided on." The Maharaja has done a service to the Council and to the country by his manly conduct. Referring to the memorial of the British Indian Association *Pioneer* remarks:

The elaborate memorial against the Assam Labour Bill, presented to the Viceroy in Council at the last moment, goes minutely into details which no one but a specialist can appreciate. But at all events it shows that the bill is open to a good deal of criticism, and from the point of view of the Bill—from the point of view, that is to say, of legislation aimed at putting stringent regulations on the employers of labour in Assam—a great deal of the criticism now put forward sounds intelligent. Assuming that the employers want to ill-treat a labourer, and that the labourer is too stupid to take care of himself, it is evidently possible to conceive cases in which the Assam coolie would find the protection

of the proposed law very inefficient. But all questions of this kind have to be looked at in a statesman-like as well as a philanthropic spirit. Assuredly the British Government will desire to protect the labourers by whose toil the Indian tea trade is growing prosperous, but it will not be inclined to stifle that growth by restrictions on the planters of a more embarrassing kind than are really called for. It is very satisfactory, again, to see native public feeling asserting itself in a matter of this kind, but even on that point there is something to be said in deprecation of too prompt a surrender to the claims now advanced. There is indeed an air of comicality in the spectacle presented by the British Indian Association coming forward in a matter of this kind as tribunes of the people. The notion of carefully watching over the interests of the people as against the encroachments of the rich and powerful classes, is an exotic notion in this country, imported by the British Government.

It may appear "comical" to our contemporary that the British Indian Association should espouse the cause of the dumb millions, but if he will take the trouble to look into the operations of this Association he will find that this body has always advocated the interests of the poor and helpless. The writer thus concludes: "It may be that the objects with which bills are brought in to regulate the importation of labour into new regions of activity may not in particular cases be fully attained, but if any one can show Government that this is the case, he will surely be rather regarded by that organisation as a co-operator than as an antagonist." Quite so. And the British Indian Association has been actuated not by a spirit of antagonism but of friendly co-operation. If the contentment of the labourers could be secured, the planters would decidedly be gainers.

A HOOGLY CORRESPONDENT has sent us the proceedings of a meeting of the landholders of the district held in Hooghly on the 22nd instant for the purpose of petitioning the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of supply of provisions to detachments of troops passing through the estates *en route* to the Upper Provinces or down to Calcutta. There were present Babus Joykissen Mookerjee, Gopeekissen Gossain, Hem Chunder Gossain, Suttya Dyal Banerjee, Rajkissen Banerjee, Abhoy Churn Nundy, Lolit Mohun Sing, Kumar Purendra Deb Rai and other principal landholders of the district. It appears that great dissatisfaction is felt in consequence of the District Collector having required the landholders to supply beef and having refused to listen to their representations of inability to muster at the halting place a large number of chowkidars, coolies, cartmen and hackney drivers in compliance with his requisition. The question is not one of local interest only, it has a wider significance, and we have no doubt the petition will receive the due attention of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of the judgments of the High Court in the Bogra Sunkirtan case. We regret we cannot make room for the judgments *in extenso*. The application was heard by Justices Pontifex and Field, and both their Lordships held that the prosecution of a public officer could not be instituted without the sanction of Government. When two such learned Judges are of this opinion we must of course bow to them. Section 466 of the Criminal Procedure Code, upon which their Lordships relied, provides that "no judge or public servant shall be prosecuted for any act purporting to be done by him in the discharge of his duty unless with the sanction of Government." Now, the question is simply this whether the act complained of was done by Mr. Sharp in the discharge of his duty as a Magistrate. We know under what circumstances Mr. Sharp interfered with the procession. Mr. Justice Pontifex says:

The procession took place at night at a time when Mr. Waller was on tour and Mr. Sharp, the Joint-Magistrate, who was in charge of the station, sent some policemen (in the petition it is said 9 or 10 policemen) to stop the procession and to bring I presume the leaders of it to his house. The procession having been stopped, and its leaders taken to Mr. Sharp's house, he seems to have at first directed that the procession should not continue, and considering it to be nothing more or less than a noisy tumultuous meeting though including in it respectable men to have directed that the persons who had been brought to his house should be taken to the Police

lines; upon being conducted from his house to his gate the Police officer in charge again went back to ask the Joint-Magistrate where he was to take the party, and upon that Mr. Sharp seems to have reconsidered the matter and to have ordered that the procession should be allowed to proceed. Now the question before us is not whether Mr. Sharp's action was proper or improper, well advised or ill-advised, or whether the members of the procession have or have not good reason to complain of Mr. Sharp's conduct towards them. The whole question is whether the complaint instituted by the petitioner could be entertained without the previous sanction of the Government.

And Mr. Justice Pontifex has decided that the prosecution could not be instituted without the sanction of Government. With due deference we repeat the question was whether this act of Mr. Sharp was done in the due discharge of his duty as a Magistrate. In the first place we are informed the petition mentioned not only policemen but also chaprasis. In the second place the order was not simply to stop but also to arrest the processionists. In the third place the learned Judges infer the motive of Mr. Sharp in the absence of any explanation from him. Mr. Justice Pontifex remarks:

It certainly appears to me that Mr. Waller was perfectly justified in supposing that the acts complained of were acts purporting to be done by Mr. Sharp in the discharge of his duty as a Magistrate. For we find that in order to stop this procession, and to put an end to what he considered disturbance, which was taking place, he sent 9 or 10 Policemen, that is persons whom he would properly employ if he was doing an act in the discharge of his duty. We do not find any imputation in the petition of complaint that Mr. Sharp was actuated by private malice or other improper motive, though no doubt there is a suggestion but supported only by a hearsay statement that Mr. Sharp was aware that Mr. Waller had given his sanction for the procession.

Again, no allusion is made to chaprasis, who we are told are mentioned in the petition. Again, Mr. Sharp's motive is inferred that he acted in his official capacity. Mr. Justice Pontifex says that it was a hearsay statement, that Mr. Sharp was aware that the processionists had received pass from Mr. Waller, the Magistrate. Why was no evidence called on this and other points? The question of law could only be decided upon facts, and the Court ought to have taken evidence as to facts. Suppose a Magistrate were to ~~through a person in the discharge of his duty, would he be protected by law?~~ We are constrained to say that the construction put upon the law in our humble opinion is somewhat strained, and that it is dangerous to the liberty of the subject.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS GREAT VALUE AS A NUTRIENT FOR WEAKLY CHILDREN.—In cases of languid and imperfect nutrition often observed in children, the surprising efficacy of Dr. de Jongh's Oil is thus described by Dr. Edward Carey: "It is in the diseases incidental to childhood that mainly depend on the mal-assimilation of the food in the pale cachectic child, when the anxious practitioner has exhausted the whole range of alteratives and tonics, that Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil will come in and satisfy his most sanguine expectations. Where the powers of life are low, it affords nourishment to the body when none can be borne; it furnishes the frame with fat in a truly wonderful manner; and administered as it is in Holland, to the delicate and puny child, who, though not considered ill, is in that state of impaired health which would favour the development of disease, its extraordinary effects will soon be visible, after having taken it for a short period, in a return to health and strength which were before unknown, and which will be accomplished by no other remedy with which we are acquainted." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Haford and Co., 77, Strand, London.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 24th December, 1881.

There has hardly been any thing done in our commercial markets which particularly characterizes the present week from those that are gone, by on the contrary transactions have very much been curtailed by the Xmas Holidays and nothing of importance transpired. The only occurrences happened during the period and attracted notice were the following: the bankruptcy of two dealers in the piece-goods trade and the loss "Ellen Stuart" by fire; she had on board valuable cargo of Indigo, Tea Salt petre, Sago and Jute, the fire was spontaneous and arose from bales of Jute which it is supposed to have been baled in a wet condition. She is now a total wreck, lying opposite to the Jetty No. 2. We understand that the vessel as well as the cargo have been insured to the full extent.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MOFUSSEIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Rs.	As.	P.
Northern Bengal State Railway, Saidpore.....	13	4	0
H. Deveria Esq., Moissadal.....	9	0	0
M. Sreenivasia Row Esq., Mysore.....	10	0	0
W. Gopalacharyar Esq., Trichinopoly.....	6	8	0
Bellary Reading Room.....	1	2	0
Baboo Bhugobutty Churn Makerjee, Muzafferpore	6	8	0
Baboo Ganganath Roy, Moteeharee.....	20	0	0
Baboo Preonath Mitra, Rangoon.....	3	0	0
Baboo Dwarakanath Bagchi, Serajunge.....	5	0	0
Baboo Gobind Chunder Das, Dhurmsala.....	6	10	0
Baboo Brojendra Nath Mookerjee, Bhargulpore...	6	10	0
Baboo Ambicachurn Sen, Jubbulpore.....	1	8	0
Baboo Preonath Chatterjee, Jeypore.....	6	10	0
Baboo Jogobundoo Khan, Magorah.....	20	0	0
Baboo Issur Narain Singh, Muzafferpore.....	10	0	0
Baboo Ganes Chunder Mohapatra, Jogutsingpur	15	0	0
Baboo Dinanath Sen, Chittagong.....	20	0	0
Baboo Nasirani Ghosal, Pooree.....	6	10	0
Baboo Gungapersad, Ajmere.....	17	7	0
Baboo Ramsoonder Gan, Mymensingh.....	10	0	0
Baboo Oud Beharyal, Gya.....	3	5	0
Baboo Bepin Behary Sen, Koothea.....	3	4	0
Baboo Soorio Kant Singh, Kandi.....	5	0	0
Baboo Krishna Kumar Dey, Gowhaty.....	10	0	0
Baboo Gossain Das Dutt, Kishengunge.....	5	0	0
Baboo Rakhal Das Halder, Ranhee.....	13	4	0
Baboo Jodoo Nath Ghose, Chundernagore.....	6	10	0
Baboo Nundolal Roy, Beaulah.....	13	4	0

ERRATUM.
For Baboo Khetter Mohan Rukhit, read Khetter Mohan Paulie, Ajoodyha.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette, —December 21, 1881.

GENERAL.—Mr. C. J. O'Donnell, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Mymensingh, is allowed furlough for ten months, under Section 49, Chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st February 1882.

Moulvie Zikir Hossein, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is transferred to Durbhanga.

The services of Mr. J. O'Kinealy, Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

The order of the 28th October 1881, transferring Babu Ramkhy Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Ghatal, Midnapore, to the sudder station of that district, is cancelled.

The order of the same date appointing Babu Shamapada Chowdry, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, to have charge of the Ghatal Division of that district, is also cancelled.

Moulvie Faizuddin Hossein, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, returned from leave on the 4th December 1881.

Mr. J. B. Worgan, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Catak, is allowed leave for one month, under Rule 2, Section 72 and Section 71 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he was relieved.

Moulvie Mahomed Serajul Haq, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahy, is transferred to the district of Bogra, and posted to the sudder station of that district.

Babu Moheshchunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bogra, is transferred to the district of Dinagore and is posted to the sudder station of that district.

Babu Nityanund Ghose is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the 1st grade in the District of Balasore.

The services of Babu Nityanund Ghose are placed at the disposal of the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, for employment on special duty in taking up land for the Orissa Coast Canal.

Babu Nityanund Ghose is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 for the above purpose.

Mr. J. Kelleher, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is transferred to Muzafferpore, and is posted to the Sudder Station of that district on being relieved of his acting appointment as Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore.

In supersession of the order of the 5th December 1881, Mr. W. R. Bright, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Patna, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Barrackpore Division of that district of the 24-Pergunnahs, and to act as Assistant Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore.

Babu Karunamoy Banerjee, Moonsif of Palanow in the district of Lohardugga, is vested with the powers of a Deputy Collector for the trial of cases under Act I (B.C.) of 1879.

Mr. S. S. Jones, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Deoghur Division of the district of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that division.

Advertisements.

WANTED

A Native Superintendent for the Building Department. Salary Rs. 50 per month. None who do not hold a certificate as an Overseer and possess a practical knowledge of building work and of both English and Bengalee need apply.

Applications along with copies of testimonials will be received by the Managers at No. 60, Colootollah Street up to 5 P. M., of the 7th January 1882.

DARJEELING FOR SALE CHEAP.—A valuable estate situated between the station and Jellapahar Depot consisting of four acres of land more or less. "Hawks nest" an iron-roofed cottage, "Maple cottage" a ditto and a fine cleared site for another cottage with stone for building collected on the ground. Cottages undergoing thorough repairs and are to let for 1882.—Apply to "Ashley Dale" Darjeeling.

The Adjourned Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 27th December, 1881, at 3 P. M.

Business to be brought forward.

1. To confirm the resolution passed by the Town Council recommending that provisional sanction be given to the Telephone Company for putting up posts and wires on certain conditions.

2. Recommending in reference to the Proceedings of the Market Committee at a Meeting held on the 28th of October, that a license be granted for a new Market at 157-58, Bow Bazar Street, on the Buildings being constructed according to the plan approved, and the Engineer's certificate to that effect.

3. Proceedings of the Tramway and Bustee Committees at Meetings held on the 1st December. (For information.)

4. Vital Statistics for the month of October. (For information.)

At the close of the Adjourned Special General Meeting a Special Meeting will be held.

1. To confirm the Chairman's nomination of Mr. Lodder as Supervisor of Tramway Works on a salary of Rs. 250 per mensem.

2. To confirm the proceedings of the Town Council at Meetings held on the 10th and 17th December and of the Bustee Committee at a Meeting held on the 8th idem.

3. The Chairman to move that a license be granted under Act V. (B.C.) of 1879 for storing Jute in premises No. 90, Sova Bazar Street.

ROBERT TURNBULL,

Secretary to the Corporation.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Co. Ltd.

DEBENTURE LOAN TWO LACS.

By Virtue of the powers conferred on them at the Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders held on the 30th November and confirmed on the 15th December the Directors of the above Company hereby invite tenders for Debentures to the extent of Two Lacs of Rupees, which will rank pari passu with the previous issues as well as any subsequent issue.

The Debentures will be for sums of Rs. 1,000 each and will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent, payable half-yearly on the 1st July and 1st January, on presentation of Coupons which will be attached to the Debentures. The Debentures will run for 15 years, and be payable to the bearer on 14th January 1897.

In issuing the Debentures the Company secures to the Holders a first charge on its moveable property present and future and all its receipts and revenue.

Tenders will be received upto 3 P. M. on Saturday the 7th January 1882, at the Office of the undersigned where forms of Tender can be obtained on application, and due notice will be given to the successful tenders.

No tenders below par will be entertained.

Payment in full of any accepted tender must be made to this Office by the 14th January 1882, on which date the Debentures will be ready.

By order of the Directors

GILLANDERS ARBUTHNOT & CO.,

Secretaries and Treasurers.

5/8 Clive Street,
Calcutta. 23rd December 1881.

THE ANNUAL

GRAND FANCY FAIR,

IN AID OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

WILL BE HELD AT THE

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS,

On Monday, the 2nd January 1882.

Under the Patronage of

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR

GENERAL OF INDIA.

HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF

BENGAL,

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

Aunt Sally, Merry-go-round, Hippodrome, Shooting

Gallery, Boat-Swing, Flat-race, Jumping, Dancing-Saloon and other amusements will be provided.

Refreshments will be supplied by Messrs. Broad and Mackinnell. The convenience of Native Gentlemen in this respect will also be studied.

By kind permission of the Commandant and Officers of the 4th N. I. the Band of the Regiment will play at the gardens. A few more tents are still available for stalls for the sale of fancy articles in aid of public charities only.—Applications will be received by Mr. A. Mendes, 8 Hastings Street up to Wednesday the 28th instant.

Admission to the Fair 1 Rupee.—For Soldiers in uniform and their families, and for children, 8 as.

Through the kindness of the East India and Eastern Bengal Railway authorities visitors to the Fair from stations below Pandooa on the former, and from Dum Dum and Barrackpore on the latter line will be allowed return passage free of charge.

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Will Exhibit for a Short Season only!

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Commencing on or about
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In her Charming Principal Acts and Specialities.
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The Graceful and Wonderful Acrobat and Gymnast in her
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From Forepaugh's Menagerie Museum and Circus.
The Daring Somersault Equestrian, in his unrivalled per-
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Backward and Forward Somersaults, Indian Juggler and
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In his Champion Hurdle Act, also Tumbling and
Contortion Acts.

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The Famed Bareback Rider and Voltigeur.

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The Celebrated French Gymnasts and Equilibristas, Win-
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Recently of Van-Amburgh's American Show in his Comic
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SIGNOR GIUSEPPE CHIARINI,
The King of Horse-Trainers, will introduce his Fearless
Stud of Trained Horses, whose Unrivalled Performances
have been the Wonder and Admiration of the Whole World
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and Members of the Nobility of every country in Europe,
in token of their appreciation of his wondrous skill, and the
intelligence and docility of his superb Horses.

MR. HARRY AGER.
THE FEARLESS TIGER-TAMER.
WILL ENTER THE DEN OF
PERFORMING ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS.
And exhibit them in a Thrilling and exciting Performance,
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N. B.—All the Animals may be seen in the Menagerie
Tent, before entering the Mammoth Circus, which seats
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Prices of Admission will be duly Announced.
THIS COMPANY WILL PERFORM EVERY NIGHT.
Doors open at 8 o'clock.—Performance to commence
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Afternoon Performances.
Doors open at 3 o'clock.—Performance to commence at 3.30,

**CALCUTTA EXHIBITION OF INDIAN ART-
MANUFACTURES, 1882.**

will be opened by
HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY
in the
INDIAN MUSEUM, CHOWRINGHEE ROAD,
ON
Wednesday the 4th January 1882.
AT 4 O'CLOCK P. M.

Admission to the opening ceremony can only be
obtained by the holders of Season Tickets, which
tickets may be had from the undersigned, at the Bengal
Club, on the following terms:—

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children under 12 years of age, belonging to
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14 "	80	and seat... "	400
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Rs. 50	60	70	80	90	110	150	200	each.	

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Mesh	1	1 1/2	2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	4	4 1/2	5
Rs. 2	1-4	1-4	0-14	0-10	0-8	0-8	p. yd. 2ft. wide		
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E. C. HAWKINS, C. E.,
Dacca District Engineer's Office, } District Engineer,
The 14th December 1881. } D. R. C. Dacca.

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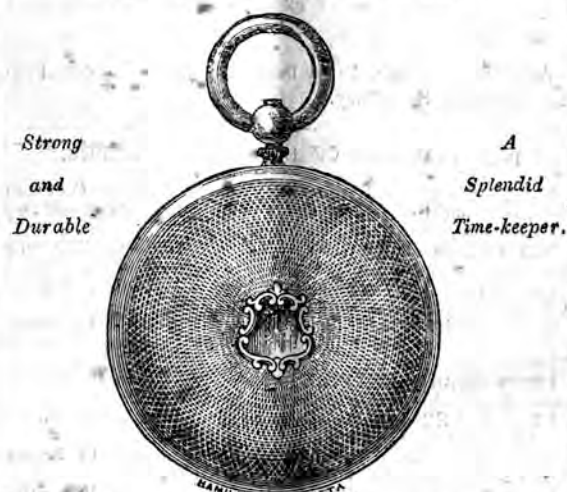
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